

Assessing Community Participation in Decision-making Process under Co-management: A Case Study on Hail Haor, Bangladesh

Authors : Rehnuma Ferdous

Abstract : Power, responsibility sharing, and democratic decision-making are the central ethos to co-management. It is assumed that involving local community in the decision-making process can create a sense of ownership and responsibility of that community and motivate the community towards collective action. But this paper demonstrated that the process to involve local community is not simple and straightforward as it is influenced by structural aspects, power relations among the actors, and social embedded institutions. These factors shape the process in that way who will participate, how they will participate and how the local community manoeuvre their agency in the decision-making process. To grasp the complexities that materialise in the process of participation and to understand the inclusionary and exclusionary nature of participation, this paper examines the subjective understanding of different stakeholders concerning participation and furthermore observes the enabling or constraining factors that affect the community to exercise their agency.

Keywords : Keywords: Participation, social embeddedness, power, structure.

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